

Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department



WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Summerfest July 14-16th
4th of July Parade
NW Natural Yard Days in September
Special Recycling Event at the
Houghton Park and Ride in the fall

INSIDE

Kirkland: Committed to Promoting Safe Walkways
How to Read, Turn Off and Keep Clear Your Water Meter
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Coping With a Mossy Roof
**Recycling: Online Materials Exchange, Sorting,
Electronics & Shredded Paper**

Illegal Use Of Water From Fire Hydrants

The City of Kirkland Water Division is on the look-out for water bandits. Individuals who take water from City fire hydrants without prior authorization are considered to be stealing water.

How do they do this?

Water bandits (i.e. a landscaper, sweeper, or water truck) pull up to a fire hydrant while no one is watching, open the hydrant, and illegally fill their tank-truck and quickly leave. A timely call from you, reporting the name displayed on the vehicle, the vehicle number, license plate or a photo of the vehicle, can be very helpful in catching these water bandits.

How does this affect our customers?

- You ultimately foot the bill for the stolen water.
- The theft can also have a localized affect on the quality of the drinking water. Improperly drawn water from a fire hydrant can temporarily stir up sediment that discolors the water going into nearby homes.
- There is also a remote potential for introducing contaminants into the water system.

Is everyone who uses a fire hydrant a water bandit?

Honest service providers go through the proper approval process, which requires inspection of receiving vehicles, issuance of meters, and where appropriate, fees and deposits paid in advance. To report suspicious activities related to fire hydrant use, please contact us as soon as possible at **(425) 587-3910**.

NOTE: Fire hydrants are color-coded; hydrants that are yellow belong to the City of Kirkland and hydrants that are white belong to Northshore Utility District which provides water service to a portion of north Kirkland.



Recycling Matters! Did You Know That...

It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials. Making recycled steel saves 60%, recycled newspaper 40%, recycled plastics 70%, and recycled glass 40%.
(U.S. EPA)

A national recycling rate of 30% reduces greenhouse gas emissions as much as removing nearly 25 million cars from the road.
(U.S. EPA)

The recycling rate in King County is 41%.



Kirkland Is Committed To Promoting Safe Walkways For Our Citizens!

Summer is almost here. The flowers are blooming, and it's a great time for a walk around the neighborhood. Please be considerate of your neighbors and do not obstruct the sidewalk with garbage or recycling carts. Remember to retrieve your carts within a reasonable time after collection (per KMC 16.08.070). Thank you!

Electronics Recycling

Kirkland single family residents can recycle computers, monitors, keyboards, cell phones, VCRs and televisions (with screens smaller than 21") at the curb for no additional fee by calling Waste Management at **(800) 592-9995** or emailing **kirklandinfo@wmnorthwest.com** at least one full business day in advance of your regular collection day.



Waste Management will pick up and recycle the electronics which are banned from the garbage and all King County transfer stations. For more information, see <http://www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland/index.html> or call Waste Management at **(800) 592-9995**.

Other options for recycling electronics can be found at the Take It Back Network at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/electronics/index.asp>

Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call **(425) 587-3907** or email vllock@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Coping With a Mossy Roof

Moss can harm some types of roofing materials, but common moss killers can harm fish and plants in our waterways. Rainwater can carry moss killers from your roof to stormwater pipes and then to the nearest stream, lake or wetland.

Moss loves to grow in the Pacific Northwest and if you have a north facing roof, you will notice more moss on your roof than your neighbor who faces south. Applying moss killers that contain zinc sulfate or copper sulfate is usually done in the late fall or early spring. There are several different types of moss kill products. Zinc strips and bleach are two popular forms. Some of the most harmful come in a canister that can be sprinkled directly on the roof, (zinc sulfate anhydrous). While they work really well on killing moss, they also work really well at polluting our streams, lakes and wetlands.

Here are some ways to manage moss while protecting the environment:

- By removing branches that overhang the roof, you can prevent moss build up.
- Cleaning the roof twice a year with water (no soap) from a high pressure garden hose and the use of a broom helps.
- Be aware, biodegradable soaps have items in them that are toxic to fish and water quality also (surfactants).



For more information on Kirkland's natural resources and water quality, contact the Public Works Department at **(425) 587-3800**

What To Do With Shredded Paper?

Many people today are concerned about the dangers of identity theft and have purchased paper shredders to turn bank statements, credit card offers and other personal documents into unrecognizable paper strips or confetti. Whereas this is good for personal protection, it presents a real problem for the recycling industry because shredding cuts paper fibers into very short pieces, most of which pass through the paper-making screens and become waste. Shredded paper also is difficult to contain at the recycling facility and can contaminate other materials making them less marketable.



At this time, the best solution for shredded paper is to turn it into compost. Please put shredded paper in a paper bag (so it doesn't blow about) in your gray yard waste cart. Contents from the yard waste cart are taken to the Cedar Grove Compost facility where they become a valuable soil amendment in a process that takes about eight weeks. This helps the environment by reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. Shredded paper can also be composted in the backyard by mixing 2 parts paper with one part grass.



Think Globally. Save Locally.

From common household items to supplies for redecorating your home...visit www.ecodeals.org

From common household items to supplies for redecorating your home, you'll find a wide variety of the products you need, at a savings you can appreciate. EcoDeals.org was created to give King County residents the power to do what's right for the environment and save money at the same time.

In King County, it's estimated that 75% of items that are sent to landfills still have economic value. This presents us all with a great opportunity to reduce waste in our area. The best way to do this is for all of us to make more environmentally-friendly purchases. With EcoDeals.org, these purchases are now easier than ever and will even save you money.

Ecodeals.org is the place to find information about environmental practices, products and services – and substantial discounts with downloadable coupons. The majority of partner retailers and manufacturers are in King County. All King County businesses are eligible to participate, but the products featured at EcoDeals.org must meet strict criteria for environmental performance.

(Information from the King County Solid Waste Division)



Secure Your Load For Safer Roads!

It is the time of year when many people clean out the house or garage and take unwanted or unusable items to the transfer station. Please remember to secure your load! Even if you are going a short distance and not driving on a highway, you are still required by law to secure your load. Recent incidents resulting in serious injuries in

the Puget Sound area are tragic reminders of the need to ensure that nothing leaves your vehicle until it reaches its intended destination.

Secure Your Load



For Safer Roads!

As of July 2005, the fine for transporting an unsecured load is \$194. If an item falls off a vehicle and causes bodily harm, the driver now faces gross misdemeanor charges and penalties of up to \$5000 and/or up to a year in prison.

Please see <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities/secure-load.asp> or call (206) 296-4466 for more information and tips for securing loads.

Learn How To Read, Turn Off And Keep Clear Your Water Meter

1. First, find your meter...

In general, the meter box is located along the frontage of your property in a black plastic box.

2. To Read Your Meter...

Reading your meter is much like reading the odometer in your car. Most meters in the City have six digits and measure usage in cubic feet. For every 100 cubic feet of water used, the register will show that one unit of water has passed through the meter.

For instance, if your meter shows a read of 0542/35, it means that 542 units and 35 cubic feet of water have been used since that meter was installed. When an additional 65 cubic feet of water is used, the register would read 0543/00 (one unit of water is equivalent to approximately 748 gallons).

3. To Check For A Leak...

If you suspect a leak, check to see if any of the dials (usually a red or silver triangle) is spinning when all uses of water in the house are turned off. These dials move when water is moving through the meter.

4. To Turn Off Your Meter...

If it becomes necessary for you to shut the water off to your house or building for emergency reasons, simply use a crescent wrench and turn the shut off valve (technically called an angle stop) in a clock wise direction until the two eyelets line up. If the angle stop in your meter box does not have the eyelets, there should be an arrow stamped into the top of the valve. Turn the angle stop in the same manner until the arrow is pointing towards the meter.

Please Keep Your Meter Clear...

It is also important to keep your meter box clear of debris, fences and shrubbery so that it is accessible to Water Division personnel. A good guide is to maintain at least three to five feet on all sides.

METER BOX

Good Example:



Bad Example:



If you have questions about these or other water issues, please call **(425) 587-3910**.

Online Materials Exchange

The Online Materials Exchange is a new resource for exchanging household items and reusable building materials. You can also list your garage and yard sale – complete with a map to your location! The service is free to registered users. The Online Materials Exchange Web site is operated by the King County Solid Waste Division as a public service to the residents of King County. The goal of the Exchange is to provide a safe and efficient venue for exchanging relatively inexpensive, re-usable items so that these items may be kept out of the waste stream. For more information, please see <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange/index.asp>

Recycling In Kirkland Means No More Sorting!

Glass, paper, plastic, cardboard and metal can all be placed together in your blue recycling cart.

If you need a sticker for the top of your blue recycling cart listing the materials that are and are not accepted in Kirkland's curbside recycling program, please email recycling@ci.kirkland.wa.us or call **(425) 587-3800**, and we will send you a new sticker.



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PERMIT NO. 268
KIRKLAND, WA
PAID
US POSTAGE
PRESORTED STD